

# City College News

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

NOVEMBER 25, 2004 VOL. 22 NO. 3

## More students recognize more teachers with Crystal Apples

Our students love their teachers.

The proof is in the number of nominations submitted for the GBC Foundation Crystal Apple Awards which has gone up from 71 last year to 112 this year. The final list of nominees recognized 60 faculty members, many of whom were nominated by more than one student. (For the full list of nominees, please go to [www.georgebrown.ca/foundation/crystalapple/crystalapple-04.html](http://www.georgebrown.ca/foundation/crystalapple/crystalapple-04.html))

The annual awards program gives students an opportunity to nominate faculty members who they feel deserve college-wide recognition for being great teachers.

This year, more than 110 students submitted nomination letters highlighting how their professors have motivated and challenged them, prepared them for their chosen career path, and inspired them to become lifelong learners.

A selection committee panel at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/U of T) reviewed the nomination letters and recommended this year's 12 award recipients. OISE has been involved in the awards program since its inception in 2001. Their enthusiasm for the awards resulted in the formalization of OISE/U of T as the external selection committee, said Margo Sheppard, the Foundation's Executive Director.

The College-Wide Award, which includes a prize of \$5,000, goes to Dianne Acey, a general education professor who has taught psychology and sociology at the college for more than 20 years.

Miranda Main, a student in the Centre for Financial Services, nominated Acey saying, "Dianne has not only prepared me for future employment, but she has prepared

me for life. Learning is a never-ending journey and Dianne is proof of that. It is also never too late to do whatever it is you may like to do."

The Centre and School recipients are awarded \$500 each. All recipients and nominees will be recognized during a special reception on Dec. 1.

"The Crystal Apple Awards Ceremony is the one time each year when we have the pleasure of celebrating teaching excellence with students, donors, faculty and staff members from across the college," Sheppard said. "The Foundation is very pleased to have such an exciting program in place and hope we can expand it in the future to include support staff."

See page 2 for the list of 2004 Crystal Apple winners.



### United Way campaign 2004

The Student Service Centre at St. James campus hosted tryouts for Student Service Centre Idol as part of the United Way campaign. Those feeling up to the challenge could sing, using the karaoke machine provided, for \$1. Those who did not feel up for listening could stop the audition for \$1. For more updates on the United Way campaign, go to <http://insite>.

### City College News is expanding

Because there are so many exciting events, innovative initiatives and great stories to tell about our college, we are expanding our coverage to Insite. Simply type <http://insite> into a web browser on any computer in the college, click on the City College News icon on the right side of the page and read away! Here's what you will find in this month's edition:

- The Chef School makes its mark on the international scene
- Support Staff Week is a huge hit with Canadian Idol judge Farley Flex
- GBC students meet their mentors
- ConEd instructor Paul Lima shares his secret to helping students get the most out of their classes
- Kudos to George Brown's Yorkville School of Makeup and Esthetics instructors



## Congratulations to the 2004 Crystal Apple Award winners

### The College-wide Crystal Apple Award (includes prize of \$5,000):

Dianne Acey, Centre for Financial Services Education, School of Business – nominated by Miranda Main

### Crystal Apple Centre and School Awards (includes prize of \$500)

Rick Losole, Access Centre – nominated by Sarah Ferguson

Annette Hemerik, School of Design – nominated by Susan Mara Green

Marsha Jorgensen, Centre for Fashion Studies – nominated by Fiona Cameron

Jill Hornick, Centre for Community Services – nominated by Elisha Lamothe, Roxanne Smith and Tracy Tozer

Cheryl Stuart, Centre for Health Sciences – nominated by Annisha Asaph

Karen Chandler, Centre for Early Childhood Development – nominated by Jodi Conyers

Laura Bulmer, Centre for Nursing – nominated by Ashley O'Connell, Mandi Howard, Julie Andrew, Angela Quinn and Brenda Brown

Roger Romberg, George Brown Chef School – nominated by Graham Pelley

Akber Remu, Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Management – nominated by Durdica Nikolic

Gary Hodson, Centre for Advanced Building Technologies – nominated by Corrado Agnello

Loreto Forte, Centre for Advanced Engineering Technologies – nominated by Vi Duc Truong, Lac Du, Chi Fai Chan and Abiodun Dedeigbo

# Ready, Set, Cook and Win a delicious success

Raphael Velasquez knows what the Knorr Ready, Set, Cook and Win competition is all about. This Baking and Pastry Arts student has been there and done that — twice, in fact.

His participation and won a \$1,500 scholarship in 2002 and competed again in 2003. This year, as a GBC student volunteer, he lent his experience and expertise to the 20 high school teams as they raced around the Chef School kitchens on Oct. 28.

"Some of them are really nervous; some are fine with what they're doing," he said during a break from the kitchen. "Since the time I did the competition, they've stepped up the skills required which is a really good thing because they have to practise and work even more."

For five hours, the competitors sliced, diced, mixed and kneaded up a storm.

"The students have done an exceptional job," said Chef John Higgins, the college's Corporate Chef, just before the judging portion of the event. "Every year, we see the quality of the competitors get better."

Burlington's Robert Bateman High School emerged victorious in the culinary competition and Central Tech took the top prize in the baking category. Each team member was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to the Chef School. Each student on the second and third



Francisco (left), a student volunteer gets his chef hat signed by Rob Rainford, host of Food Network Canada's Licence to Grill.

place teams took home \$650 and \$350 scholarships respectively.

"We started off horribly and we didn't expect to win," gushed Michele Monds of Central Tech after the winners were announced. "It just turned out really well because of patience and teamwork."

Many of the teams and their teachers had been training for months to ensure they could take any kind of heat in the kitchen on the day of the competition.

"It's been eight weeks of intensive training," said Ruth MacEachern, a teacher from Emery Collegiate. "We started practising in the morning, picked it up again at lunch and then stayed after school for dinner."

The hard work and dedication of college staff and the sponsors — Knorr, Coca Cola, La Roca, Bakemark, Grace Meat Products and Wiley Books — also did not go unnoticed.

"The amount of time, energy, commitment and professionalism was evident from all the George Brown staff," said teacher Doug Cooper from Robert Bateman High School. "It was the first time that my students saw a cooking college and it was an eyeopener."

For celebrity chef and GBC grad Rob Rainford, host of Food Network Canada's Licence to Grill, judging the competition for the first time was also an eye-opening experience — one that he said he would definitely have done as a high school student.



Alana Chircop (left) and Erica Henderson, both from Holy Trinity Secondary School, get their hands into some dough in the baking competition.

# Roméo Dallaire helps to heal the wounded

Roméo Dallaire knows many war stories.

But when the retired Lt.-Gen. spoke at George Brown on Oct. 27, he didn't talk about battles, badges or even bullet wounds. Instead, he pulled a little plastic case out of his briefcase.

For the man who led the United Nations' envoy into the heart of a horrific genocide in Rwanda ten years ago, the plastic case is like a bandage for a head wound. It contains the medication he takes for post-traumatic stress disorder — an injury that is not necessarily as visible as a flesh wound but equally, if not more, painful to endure.

"The injury is real but it is not honourable," said Dallaire, echoing society's attitude towards mental illness.

Dallaire spoke at George Brown as part of the Mental Health in the City forum hosted by the Access Centre and sponsored by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. To commemorate World Mental Health Day, college staff, students and faculty, members of the mental health community, government representatives and business leaders focused on employment and housing issues for those with mental illness in an urban environment.

"Four-and-a-half years ago, after a suicide attempt, I made a decision to keep living," he told his listeners whom he effortlessly captivated.

This decision was driven by his desire to



take control of his condition, to no longer disregard the value of his life and to work for human rights and for those who suffer from the same war wounds.

He talked about the rigid and restrictive nature of the army which historically refused to accept women, homosexuals and those with disabilities. The fight for tolerance and acceptance continues and slowly, Dallaire said, things are beginning to move forward.

But the frontline is not the only place where psychological damage can occur. The stresses of modern society, of an insecure world, of the information age, of a ruthless workforce that turns people into resources

and commodities and discards those who have been damaged are taking a toll on everyone, he said.

Dallaire believes we have lost our humanity, sensitivity and respect for those who couldn't quite perform to the 110-per-cent expectation, for those who couldn't keep up with the new do-more-with-less way of life.

As his hour-long talk came to an end, Dallaire urged us not to "shun and move those who are damaged out of the way." Instead, he urged us to go back to our former ways of humanity, sensitivity and respect for everyone including those who were left behind.

## Graduate Profile: Mercedes Hughes, Activation Co-ordinator/Gerontology

It wasn't until Mercedes Hughes had raised a family and was looking for a new career that she ended up at George Brown College and found the answer to one of life's toughest questions: what do you want to be when you grow up? .

Hughes, currently the public education co-ordinator for the Alzheimer's Society in Toronto, went to university for a degree in political science and worked as a banker for 10 years. Several years ago, she saw a career counsellor to help her figure out what she should do next.

"I was told that activation was the right direction," Hughes said. "I had never even heard of activation before."

Activation co-ordination involves the designing and implementation of meaningful activity and programming for the elderly to enhance their quality of life.

For Hughes, the natural choice for training and education in this field was at George Brown in the Activation Co-ordinator/

Gerontology program which is unique in the province.

Hughes, who graduated in 1999, credits the program for much her successful and rewarding career.

"I couldn't have done it without learning what I did here and finding the passion to go out and do it," she explained.

After graduation, Hughes taught part-time at the college and just recently started a new job at the Alzheimer's Society.

As the public education co-ordinator, she visits various community groups and agencies to speak about dementia and Alzheimer's Disease and does training at long-term facilities. Essentially, her mandate is to raise awareness about dementia which is a broad term used to classify a number of different symptoms that affect a person's judgment, memory and co-ordination.

On Nov. 17, Hughes was invited back to the college by professor Angela Nmezi to speak to students in the Alzheimer's Disease

and Related Disorders class.

Hughes was accompanied by her colleague Margaret Cameron, the Alzheimer's Society's Information Resource Co-ordinator. Hughes said she was happy to be back at George Brown to talk to the students about careers in activation co-ordination.



Mercedes Hughes, a graduate of Activation Co-ordinator/Gerontology, speaks to students about the Alzheimer's Society where she is the public education co-ordinator.

As the United Way campaign continues, several spirit events have been on the go around the college, contributing \$10,596 of the \$84,455 total raised as of Nov. 19.



Lone Shekter-Wolson gets her teeth whitened by Saws Ghorany, a student in the Dental Hygiene program. All proceeds from the teeth whitening clinics go to the United Way.

The annual **Community Services and Development** book sale, held at St. James on Nov. 9, was a huge success raising \$1,667 — about \$1,000 more than last year. The **Early Childhood Education** program also held a book sale raising \$118 towards the campaign. On Nov. 12, **Community Services and Health Sciences Dean Lorrie Shekter-Wolson** got her teeth whitened by a Dental Hygiene student and donated to the United Way at the same time. The dental clinic is offering this service at the unbeatable staff price of \$100 (valued at \$300-500). To book an appointment, call Mary Clare Szabo at ext. 6324.

In late October and early November, the **International Centre** hosted members of Suzhou Overseas Affairs Service Centre (SOASC) and Suzhou City TV of China to capture, on film, life at George Brown College for potential students in Suzhou to see what a Canadian education is all about. The crew observed classroom activities and campus life,

conducted interviews and focused on current international students and their lives in Toronto. Suzhou is among the most active regions in China where the college engages in international recruitment with the SOASC, a semi-governmental agency.



From front left to front right: Reza Davoodi (Hospitality), John Varga (Financial Services), Zheng Youchun (Suzhou City TV, China), Baisong Zhang (International Centre), Ian Grady (Hospitality), Liang Wu (International Centre), Lorraine Trotter (Access Centre), Cornelia Krikke (Hospitality), Zhang Laicheng (Suzhou Overseas Affairs Service Centre, China), Elizabeth Speers (Financial Services), Wang Xia (Suzhou Overseas Affairs Service Centre, China) take a lunch break from filming around the college.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **United Way events**

- Nov. 26 – 50/50 Draw for 500 McPherson
  - Dec. 2 – Early Childhood Education dinner
  - Dec. 3 – Raffle and ConEd Christmas party
  - Dec. 7 – Silent auction and holiday event
- Please check <http://insite> for more event listings.

### **Jammin' to Jamaica**

November 26

ECE's annual fundraiser will help send 15 GBC students to Kingston, Jamaica to complete work placements in partnership with Shortwood Teachers' College. The evening will feature a silent auction and gourmet food with a Jamaican flare will be served at Siegfried's from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, please contact Lynn Wilson at ext. 2340 or [lwilson@gbrown.ca](mailto:lwilson@gbrown.ca).

### **Back to the Beach – Recreational 6s Indoor Beach Volleyball Tournament**

November 27

Winter is on its way but there's still time to squeeze in some beach time with this volleyball tournament organized by students in the Sport and Event Marketing program.

Cost is \$20 per person. For more information, e-mail [backtothebeach@rogers.com](mailto:backtothebeach@rogers.com) or visit <http://ca.geocities.com/backtothebeach@rogers.com>. All proceeds go to the GBC Sport and Event Marketing Foundation.

### **Crystal Apple Awards reception**

December 1

The winners of this year's Crystal Apple Awards will be honoured at a special reception beginning at 6 p.m. in Siegfried's restaurant. For more information, please contact Erin Agnew at (416) 415-5000, ext. 2063.

### **Parkdale Project Read Craft and Art Sale**

Dec. 5 – noon to 6 p.m.

Get your homemade jewellery, jams, cards, pottery, knitwear and much more just in time for Christmas. A portion of the proceeds from the sale go to support literacy in Parkdale. The sale will be held at Parkdale Project Read at 160A Springhurst Ave. (near Queen Street West and Jameson Avenue). For more details, please call (416) 531-6308 or go to [www.nald.ca/ppr/](http://www.nald.ca/ppr/).

### **Technology Pancake Breakfast**

December 9

Technology faculty will be whipping up some delicious pancakes to raise money for a "Tech in the City" Campaign Cabinet Scholarship. Pay what you can to eat as much as you can from 7 to 9:30 a.m. in the main lobby of Building E at Casa Loma. For more information, please contact Lili Litwin at ext. 4023 or [llitwin@gbrown.ca](mailto:llitwin@gbrown.ca).

### **Safe Walk**

If you attend evening events or meetings at the college and would like to ensure a safe arrival at your car or subway station, use the Safe Walk service offered at both St. James and Casa Loma campuses.

Hours of operation:

Monday – Thursday	6:30 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
Friday	6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Locations:

- St. James —  
200 King Street East in the main lobby and 300 Adelaide St. E. in the Hospitality Building Casa Loma —
- 142 Kendal Avenue across from security; Davenport Road entrance